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(Translated from the German.)

# OUR REPUBLIC.

Its Cardinal Principles---Republicanism Its Perpetuating Bulwarks,

JULIUS SILVERSMITH, M. A.,

EDITOR CHICAGO OCCIDENT---AUTHOR OF PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR  
MINERS, ETC., ETC.

CHICAGO.

1884.

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# OUR REPUBLIC.

Its Cardinal Principles---Republicanism Its Perpetuating Bulwarks,

AN ADDRESS BY

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FELLOW-CITIZENS:

Every good citizen of this great American country will concede that a close scrutiny of the principles and policies to be pursued by an administration for the progress and prosperity of our people when they are to choose their standard-bearer is essential. The approaching contest is one of vital importance to every interest in our Republic. The two political parties best known to all Americans have placed candidates before us and we, the people, are to choose sufficient electors for proclaiming the choice of the people. It is indeed essential that we should investigate and closely examine the several platforms and principles of both these parties, to decide which of these are for the benefit of our whole country.

THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

Undoubtedly, the great Statesmen which composed the recent Republican Convention held in Chicago, have fitfully enunciated the principles and best means for the executive and legislative bodies of our country. It has been scanned and critically dissected by the wisest of men, and has truly been accepted as the only plan by which our every interests from north to south and east to west will be well subserved, and that will secure to all citizens the greatest benefits and emoluments.

## A WORD TO MY FELLOW FOREIGN-BORN AMERICAN CITIZENS.

In glancing over the several periods during which the Republican party has ministered over the nation's affairs, we find the enfranchisement of over 4,000,000 bondmen, and that it has placed every citizen equally before the law! It is the only and first civilized nation on this mundane sphere, wherein a foreign-born citizen may attain high renown and honored positions, if he proves himself honest, capable and faithful to our country. It has granted and given the best of our public domain to any and all who are willing to go upon our public lands to found homes for themselves. It has enacted laws that will encourage the laborer and protect them in their earnings and gains. The greatest boons are the large expenditures devoted to the system of public schools and the education of our children. You, my fellow-citizens, Germans, Frenchmen, Scandinavians, Slavonians, Italians and Spaniards, if you will but recognize these and many other cardinal benefits enacted for your welfare, all of you would surely gratefully tender your whole and individual support to that great Republican party! Nay more, in Hon. James G. Blaine's letter of acceptance, we are promised still greater deeds. He is outspoken when he says: "The name of *American* which belongs to us in our national capacity must always exalt the just pride of patriotism. Citizenship of the republic must be the panoply and safeguard of him who wears it. The American citizen, rich or poor, native or naturalized, white or colored, must everywhere walk secure in his personal and civil rights. The republic should never accept a lesser duty, it can never assume a nobler one than the protection of the humblest man who owes it loyalty—protection at home and protection which shall follow him abroad into whatever land he may go upon a lawful errand." No doubt many of you may some time desire to return to your old homes, yet you fear the petty tyrants under whose tyrannical sway you were born, and who are always ready to ruthlessly lay hands upon you, through their paid minions, and to press you into the ranks of their standing armies as soon as you venture within reach, and thus set aside all the rights we may have secured under the free institutions of this country and the privileges of naturalization. No better advocate for American rights has spoken so well on that question as Mr. Blaine, and I feel more than assured that my foreign-born brethren will cast their franchise for him, who is our best friend. It were time that the American people placed in the executive chair a Statesman like Mr. Blaine, who will maintain the safety and honor of every American, be he a native or a naturalized citizen, when he seeks social or commercial interests in foreign lands.

Not only the Republican party, but Mr. Blaine himself, is determined, and, so to speak, wedded to the subjects of subsidizing our



merchant and government navy, in order to promote our enlarged commercial intercourse with foreign nations, and to protect the rights of American citizens in foreign lands.

Our Democratic friends who have had the majority in Congress eight of ten years past, have talked much, but have literally done nothing to resuscitate our merchant and government marine, notwithstanding that our Treasury has had over a one hundred million dollar fund accumulated, which might readily have been appropriated for that essential need.

#### OUR FELLOW LABORING MEN.

One of the most auspicious planks in the Republican platform is the timely remedy pointed out for augmenting the benefits of our laboring classes.

This can only be accomplished by the wisest legislation, and it can not be doubted that the valiant standard bearers of Republicanism, the illustrious gentlemen, the Hon. Jas. G. Blaine and Gen. Jno. A. Logan, each re-echo the deep sentiment of protecting our laboring masses. For twenty-five years the Republican party has accomplished the greatest improvements in our industrial pursuits and has multiplied the encouragement for honest labor. It has caused the erection of thousands of factories for all kinds of manufactories, so that our country is no longer dependent on foreign importations. Prior to the war we were entirely at the mercy of our English cousins. Those of you who know something of the antecedents of the once powerful Democratic party, will remember that they were ever devoted free-traders. King cotton was their demigod, and 4,000,000 bondmen furnished the article by this slave labor!

"A tariff for revenue *only* was their "shibboleth" four years ago. They have changed it to read, "a tariff for public purposes exclusively, which is a difference of words, but not of idea. But the wisest of them in Congress have failed to see the practicability of such a fool-hardy measure. They have discovered that the earnings of millions of laborers, artisans and workmen of this country, could not be reduced by the competition of the pauper labor of the old country. To the great Republican party belongs the credit of having elevated the laboring man, artisan and mechanic of this great republic, as well as having secured to him the greatest boons which a civilized nation can bestow!

We have the best evidence in the letter of acceptance of Mr. Blaine that as an American, he fosters the broadest sentiment which should exist between the North and South; when he says "the South needs capital and occupation—not controversy," and that she has entered upon a career of industry," which exhibits his wise Statesmanship, and if placed in the executive chair, as we hope he will be, would, by his policy, annihilate the last vestige of acrimony that lingers from the war, and place the interests of the South on an equal commercial status with other States, and which they enjoyed prior to the

war. The every day reader will long have pondered what the Democratic party designs, or what should entitle them to govern this great republic. Its greatest aims were only for slavery—free-trade and the spoils of office. But these issues have long since been adjudicated by the humane and intellectual Republican party! Would it be policy for the people of this great nation to revert to the old beaten ruts of this superannuated political *junta*? Our country is too far advanced in the peaceful pursuits of our industries, productions, finances and general prosperity. The Democratic howl of reform, change of administration, and other false crys, could only bring chaos, ruin, and possibly anarchy! Would you have such a change? No! a thousand times No!! Even to-day we read from rampant Democratic organs that the sovereignty of States is yet sacred to them; intimidation and bull-dozing at the polls are tacitly acquiesced in by some of the misled Southern States, where the shot-gun and bloodhounds effectually debar honest Republican voters from the polling places! All this is yet indulged in under the *soubriquet* of a "Solid South." Certain demagogues among our Eastern Democratic friends have broadly cast out the idea, because the illustrious candidate, Mr. Blaine, for President, being of Maine, that our foreign-born citizen would be circumscribed in their privileges by reason of the Maine laws, touching intoxicating drinks. I doubt not that every Democrat entertains this fear—good judgment and sobriety are not among their natural attributes. But, after searching the Records of Congress, and the public documents of Mr. Blaine, I cannot find a single sentence or speech of his official career in which he is committed to that famous interdiction, and I challenge any Democrat, distiller, compounder or brewer to adduce such an allusion that will exhibit Mr. Blaine adverse to the legitimate manufacture of spirituous, vinous or malt beverages, or, their moderate use. He is too broad a Statesman and such an exemplary political economist as to even think of such a question, much less advocate prohibition or tee-to-talism, and yet who is there that would charge on him inebriety?

It is a happy coincidence that two such types of men as Mr. Blaine and General Logan should have been chosen by the Republicans, since both are fully committed and staunch friends to all that which pertains to the welfare of our country. With such Statesmen at the helm of the ship of State, it must safely sail until the greatest aims of our country and people are gained, and the serene harbor of the fullest peace, freedom, prosperity and the highest State of civilization is reached!

I hurl back with indignation the false imputation of some haranguing Democrats that we Germans came to this country only to drink free beer or that Irish patriots desire to indulge in free whiskey and have no higher principle. It is the most dastardly demagoguery.

The imputation is base and unfounded! You will bear me witness my foreign-born friends that we have come with far nobler and better designs—we are not a nation of bibblers and drunkards, we came to seek freedom, honest labor, in fact, to become a potent factor for creating this country a happy, powerful and an honored nation! We came to be the bone and sinew of America. We are fulfilling this mission to the best of our understanding, and can exist without the still or mash-tub if need be.

In the matter of Civil Service, our Democratic friends have heretofore promised much, but in reality accomplished little. It is not in the nature of things that it could. The Democracy counts among its dogmas the trite saying: "To the victors belong the spoils," hence the most abject bully, shoulder-hitter, bull-dozer and ballot-box stuffer may attain a postmastership or a revenue office, and if he be even devoid of the first rules of grammar, or even incapable of adding a column of figures. But, my friends, it is the fact that under the Republican administrations this anomalous status has been happily averted, Civil Service has become a test matter for every public official, and our public affairs are far more systematically transacted and less blunders and confusions occur. It were indeed a great pity, if not an outrage, were we to again reinstate the defunct Democratic idea of "spoils." You, my fellow foreign-born citizens, will not lend yourself to such a plot—you are 'oo intelligent; you pay enough tithes, taxes and revenues to have the public monies sequestered or wrongfully expended, if not pilfered, by an illiterate rabble of hungry ward bummers and politicians of the lowest type. Hon. Jas. G. Blaine and John A. Logan, are both firm advocates for a consistent Civil Service Reform, and the Republican platform clearly and distinctly sets that up, as one of its most important planks.

I should not be doing justice to myself or to you, were I to omit the most important topic at this juncture of American annals in the brief time allowed me for addressing you, when I assert that the Democracy and *par example*, the "Solid South," foster and nurse a most gigantic scheme for fleecing our public Treasury, and if they should ever be successful in placing themselves in power again, would plunge our nation into a far greater indebtedness than we ever had before. Mark you, my friends, I am not an alarmist; but a timely precaution against such an anomaly should govern every man, woman and child in this great Union. But to the facts: Some time during March last I received a quarto pamphlet of forty pages from England, written by J. Barr Robertson, of London, in which he treats of the claims of the late Southern Confederacy, its bond and paper issues, constantly harpiag upon the individual State rights, positively asserting the legality of the claims of those Southern rebels who would hold the government of the United States

liable for the payment of every bond issued and private Southern debt so incurred during our internecine war. From his standpoint the case is most pertinaciously argued. This eminent jurist is even not slow in obtaining six of the most erudite international jurists in Europe to endorse and pass judgment on his opinion and statements, to-wit: That the third parties, (British, French and Dutch capitalists) were entitled to the principal and interest of said bonds.

Mr. Robertson quotes Lord Cairns, and the present Lord Justice, Cotton, of England, who are committed on the cotton loan in their decision of Feb. 23, 1863, and the eminent foreign jurists, who were influenced to side with the bondholders, are Dr. J. M. C. Asser, of Amsterdam, Dr. Thomas Goudsmit, of Rotterdam, Dr. Achilles Renaud, Privy Counselor of the Grand Duchy of Baden, Dr. Jules Levita, of Paris, also Monsieur M. Lente, of the Court of Appeals of Paris, and Monsieur Henri Barboux, Battonier of the Roll of Advocates of the same court. Mr. Robertson then goes on with a number of cases analogous in favor of such claim holders. He now urges an arbitration between the interested confederate bondholders of Great Britain, France and Holland and our government. In winding up his argument he says: "This is a perfectly valid international claim in behalf of Europeans, which the British, French and Dutch governments, whose citizens are chiefly interested, can without hesitation present to the government of the United States—and which that government after satisfying by arbitration or other, wise as to the amount, may confidently be expected to pay. The claim on behalf of loyal Southern citizens, to repayment for property represented also in the Dollar Bonds, is one of validity of which the United States cannot in justice refuse to recognize."

It will be observed, my friends, that these foreign gamblers hope, through a centralized "Solid South" to obtain possession of our United States Treasury. It is impossible at this time to estimate the exact amount they claim, but that it reaches high among the thousands of millions is an assured fact.

And all this is flung into our face despite the amendments and resolutions passed by Congress, and the principles laid down by it, that no State of the Confederacy has ever possessed such rights or privileges.

Believe me, my friends, this is no idle threat. Every move, every plan projected to place the Democracy once more in power, would assuredly aid and encourage the Democratic party to demand the payment of all rebel bonds and rebel claims. They would not stop short of even presenting their personal bills for losses occasioned by the war, and insist on the payment of the per capita value of every slave freed by the immortal Lincoln. It is the only hope which the Southern Democrats cherish, and this is the reason why they style themselves the "Solid South." I can only account for the ac-

cumulation under a Democratic Congress of the \$101,000,000 now in the United States Treasury as being a precursory measure of providing for the payment of the claims, which they may award by some act, over-riding the Congressional amendments and resolutions touching all rebel claims. You nor I can doubt that the "Solid South" would if it could nullify and destroy these amendments and resolutions.

My friends, I shudder and tremble at the thought of the crushing burden of another quarter of a century's debt, that would rest on the shoulders of our nation!

You, my fellow countrymen, should ponder seriously ere you would help to place such a party into power, which would surely despoil our National Treasury; to make you toil harder for raising taxes and revenues, and foist upon your sons and daughters an additional obligation to our present debt--not a debt of your own creation, but that of a people who ruthlessly sought to disintegrate this glorious Union, and keep in bondage 4,000,000 human beings! You will also observe how solicitous the English press and the British "money bags," who invested in the illegal Confederate bonds, have of late exhibited a proclivity for encouraging and advocating the claims and superiority of the Democracy and their preferences for the Presidential candidates of that party. It is obviously for the purpose of speedily realizing the ready cash on the Confederate bonds, which they still hope to collect. Nor would the Democracy stop short in their reckless manner of legislation to vote themselves monies for the "Solid South" for every barn, house, horse, pig, cow destroyed during the war. Indeed there would be no end to our indebtedness. I do not believe with these facts before us that my foreign-born citizens would be a means of reinstating the "Solid South" with the dough faced Democracy of the north, who want only spoils and government positions, to be taxed and burdened for a wicked rebellion, and in which they had no interest. I cannot believe that the German, French, Scandinavian, or other foreign-born citizens would lend themselves for such a destructive policy.

I am more than convinced of the fact, that if in some five or six Southern States the enfranchised colored people were allowed to have the privilege of casting their honest ballots, we could readily count them as Republican States. But with all the olive branches, amnesties and magnanimites, which our executive, legislative and judiciary governments granted to the murderous wielders of the shot gun and employers of bloodhounds and other intimidating weapons, the the would-be heroes of the "Solid South" frequently, and, in open defiance, seek to destroy our most sacred bulwark of American citizenship, *the free and sacred rights of the elective franchise, and an honest ballot!*

A smouldering fire seems yet to linger within the hearts of the irreconcilable fire-eaters. Their presses keep harping on the fallacious principles of the sovereignty of each individual State, indemnity for war losses, and a hundred other *ante-bellum* notions, which are adverse to the progress, enlightenment and prosperity of our American nation so auspiciously inaugurated by the Republican party. Nor do I believe that these misguided Southrens will mend their way until every one of their States is Republicanized, and if the younger generations of the South do not come within the bounds of reason, the general government should assert its authority.

It is a sore perplexity to me to learn that some defection has arisen among my German fellow-citizens, on account of a widespread misapprehension, touching the prohibition question, and some minor issues. My erring compatriots should not forget that they formed the so-called left wing of the Republican party, which was instituted in 1854. Among the most notable coadjutors in the past, was the Hon. Carl Shurz, and it seems somewhat singular that he should be arrayed against that party, which had elevated him next to the highest position in the land. I call this perfidious, and the veriest inconsistency. Some shortsighted Germans who do not read the history of the several State policies, with reference to the prohibition movement, especially the one passed in Iowa and Kansas, are led to believe that the Republicans were to blame for this enactment, when in reality prohibition owes its invention to the Democratic party. The first prohibition law ever enacted in this country and the one on which all the others have been modelled, was the Teetotalism Act of the Democratic Legislature of Maine, passed in 1851-2—two or three years before the Republican party was organized. When the Democratic party was in power in Maine in 1879-80-81 it refused to repeal the prohibitory law. The prohibitory law of Iowa was enacted by the Democratic Legislature of 1853-4, and was modified by the Republicans in 1857, permitting the sale of beer and wine, which liberal amendment continued in force 26 years; but being angry and excited at the saloon keepers selling whiskey in violation of the law, and the terms of their license, the temperance element in a fit of passion have repealed the wine and beer exceptions and restored the original Democratic prohibition law, forbidding also the manufacturing of liquor in the State, and now that State has a prohibition act, of which they will soon tire—it is impracticable—it is not, and never was a Republican measure, and our most intelligent Germans understand this, otherwise the Prohibitionists and fanatics would not have set up their own platform, and a Mr. St. John for President. On the other hand communities where Democratic whiskey was doing its most mischief, as in Nebraska and Illinois, both the Democrats and Republicans joined hands in enacting a high license law

—it works well both here and there—it does wonders in Illinois, drunkenness, and crime is materially lessened. The whiskey business will become more decent. It helps our public treasuries, and diminishes our personal and property taxes. In fact it is the only practical policy—it is just what every good citizen desires. I have the satisfaction of knowing that all my foreign-born friends and citizens (who are not saloon keepers), believe as I do, that the Republican party cannot be held responsible for either the Prohibition acts or the high license law, as now enforced in some States.

Space prevents me from describing the Democratic prohibition law recently enacted in Georgia, and the very high License Act passed last year by the Democrats of Missouri, combined with a local option prohibitory law. I might also speak of the Prohibition Bill, passed by the Democrats of North Carolina two years ago, and when submitted for popular approval, voted down by the solid Republican vote, aided by a few Liberal Democrats. I might also refer to the rapid spread of prohibition sentiments in all the Southern Democratic States, where the Republicans are excluded from participation in public affairs.

By way of comparison, permit me to draw some characteristic distinctions of the candidates of both parties. I can do no better than to quote the language of the venerable Senator George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts, who says :

“Next to the great generals of the war Mr. Blaine had for twenty years been the most conspicuous personal presence in the country and the most brilliant public speaker the country ever saw, excepting, possibly, Henry Clay. His great powers of debate have always been exerted to keep the American people in the right path. His enemies even now do not accuse him of a corrupt act. Senator Hoar explained the noted Fisher letter. All his letters were consistent with perfect political integrity and honorable motives. The Massachusetts Senator points out since the charges were made in 1876, Mr. Blaine has been indorsed by the people who knew him best. He was elected to Congress, and to the United States Senate, and appointed Secretary of State by President Garfield, with the hearty approval and concurrence of the United States Senate. In conclusion, Senator Hoar says Mr. Blaine stands before the people as a representative American, from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet—an American of the John Quincy Adams, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington type.”

So much for the Republican candidate for President. The name of Gen. John A. Logan shines out with equally bright luster. He was not only a bold, fearless and gallant soldier on the field of battle, but his every act in public life exhibits him as a consistent and, practical Statesman, and an honor to the State that gave him birth.

Both of these gentlemen immediately after the Republican Convention met, came promptly before the public with the most Statesman-like acceptances, and their adhesion to the principles laid down in the Republican platform, which enunciates the most essential needs of our country. Both of their letters exhibit in round words and frankest terms what they will advocate for the glory and advancement of our country. Their timely missives are not studied epistles, no mere empty phrases, but they take up every important object and interest that should be inaugurated and fostered for the success and grandeur of our American republic.

Our friends, the Democrats, have also set up a platform, and it contains much—if volubility counts for anything. It is full of glittering platitudes. It is vague and indefinite. It lacks the fire and animation of the once powerful Democratic heroes, because the great questions—the very cornerstones of slavery, and the free tariff notions, are irretrievably lost to them. The party stands to-day, as Shakespeare expresses it, like “Othello with his occupation gone.”

It cannot be my design to belittle any man from the rostrum, it would be beneath the dignity of a gentleman, under any and all circumstances, to drag in the personal amenities of either Mr. Grover Cleveland or Mr. Thomas A. Hendricks, and yet we would point out to the intelligent masses of our country the vast difference between the candidates of different parties as to their social, intellectual, or Statesman like abilities. Would the working masses of America devote their franchise to a man who is simply the tool of the great railroad cormorants? Has he not vetoed the enactment of his own State, which would have given the laboring men, artisans and mechanics a cheaper rate of fare? Is he not in league with the most desperate monopolists, the Vanderbilts, Goulds, and other Wall street stock jobbing manipulators?

If we now compare the document called his letter of acceptance which was as brief as it was long coming, we find that it is wanting in all the essential points touching our nation's great interests. It, like the Democratic platform, is vague, indefinite and wanting in purpose. Unlike the letters of Mr. Blaine and that of Gen. Logan, (which documents breathe in every line and sentence fixed and determined promises that speak volumes to the American heart,) those of Messrs. Cleveland and Hendricks literally hold out no inducement or encouragement to the American people. Mr. Hendricks' letter is indeed so exceedingly brief, that it can scarcely be recognized as a State paper. He is as sullen to day as he was when Gen. Logan was fighting his rebel *confreres* on the battle field in 1861-65.



In view of the many reasons which I assign to the real situation of our country, and the more philosophical policies we should follow for the progress and advancement of our nation, I earnestly hope and pray that my fellow foreign-born citizens will seriously ponder before they swerve from the Republican party, which has vouchsafed us so many blessings and aggrandizements, and which undoubtedly offers us greater advantages under the illustrious Statesmen whose wise judgment and exemplary personal merit, the people of this country and the nation at large will rise to the dignity and glory of the greatest republic on this mundane sphere!

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